

VOINOVICH be allowed to follow the Senator from West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Chair.

I have refrained from getting into this discussion about the moratorium on Internet taxes up to this point, but I need to voice some comments because I am one of the people who has been working on this issue for the last 18 months and was a part of the debate we had 18 months ago that put the current moratorium into effect.

I thank Senator GRAHAM from Florida, who has been intensely involved. He has been one of the main people who has provided a connection with Congress and State legislators. I thank Senator RON WYDEN, the Senator from Oregon, for his intense interest. I think probably the number of hours the Senator from Oregon and I, and Senator MCCAIN, Senator KERRY, Senator DORGAN, and Senator GRAHAM have spent in meetings on this issue, which has not been a specific bill, probably exceeds the time spent on any other issue that was not actually a bill, which indicates the intensity of the need there is to resolve the issue nationwide.

Particularly since the events of September 11, there has been a drain on resources for cities, towns, counties, and States as they have put more security in place, as they have provided for the difficulties that have happened in their States. Most of them rely on a sales tax to be able to do that.

Education is another area heavily funded by sales taxes. Those States that collect sales taxes and rely on sales taxes have been intensely interested that their right to collect sales taxes is not taken away. Getting all of the groups together has been extremely difficult: the recognition that there is an added burden on direct marketers when they do this, that the States need it, that the retailers are at an unfair disadvantage if there is not a sales tax collected. And it is small retail merchants that provide for donations for the year books and the other local activities that would be sorely missed if they were not there.

Getting some protection for all of these groups and bringing them together has been a real task. We have been making tremendous progress. There has been some concern that the moratorium runs out Sunday and the Nation will go into a major crisis. That is not the case. The grandfathering dates back to 1998. I suspect nobody is going to undo that particular date.

We need a solution. This is not my solution. This is the solution of all of the people I mentioned who have been working on it and will be continuing to work on it to come to some kind of an agreement where, first of all, we extend the moratorium; second, we make sure we protect the States so they can, with some pressure—and this is where the States have to come to the middle,

too—simplify their tax system so that direct marketer or that person doing remote sales has some capability of complying. In order to make that easier, one of the things we have built into the bill is a requirement that there be one form, one reporting place, one place to send the check, and a maximum of one audit. There is also a requirement there be reasonable compensation to the person who collects it.

Everybody who does direct sales collects sales taxes. They collect it in the State in which they are located, which is where they have a nexus and in other States where they have a nexus. There is an intense interest on their part to see that there is some simplification to the tax system in the States where they have to work.

Mr. WYDEN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ENZI. I am happy to yield for a question when I complete my remarks.

As I mentioned, we have been working with retailers and a coalition, including a lot of retailers and others who rely on the sales tax or rely on businesses that have a sales tax. That includes people who build shopping malls and do other types of retail businesses. I acknowledge their help in coming to this particular bill. I thank the National League of Cities and the National Governors' Association, and most particularly, my Governor from Wyoming, Governor Geringer, and the Governor from Utah, Governor Leavitt, for the tremendous hours they have put in together trying to get everybody on the same page.

I yield for a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleague from Wyoming. I appreciate the work that has gone into this. He obviously has strong views on it. It has been very constructive in trying to work with me and others.

I ask my colleague about a procedural matter that could allow us to go forward and bring the parties together. Senator MCCAIN and I introduced legislation several weeks ago that is virtually identical to what the House passed this week. The House has already begun to move.

My question to my colleague is, would the distinguished Senator from Wyoming be willing to work with me and others, the entire group involved, to craft a unanimous consent request that could come up early next week where we could take up in the Senate the House-passed bill and then have an open and fair debate on amendments and all of the up-or-down votes that Members of this body would choose to have?

Would my colleague be willing to work with me and others to see if we could craft that kind of approach that is agreeable all around?

Mr. ENZI. I am happy to work with the Senator from Oregon. I have been working also with the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, to see if we can-

not propound some kind of unanimous consent. It needs to be done quickly before States run off the edge and pass some things we might then feel bad about repealing but have to repeal. I am interested in doing that.

However, I hope the propounded unanimous consent could deal with this bill, rather than the straight 12-month extension. I have been talking to people on the House side and I think they see some reasonableness in going with the approach I am providing, as well.

We need to come up with a propounded unanimous consent that will get us to this form of debate and voting on amendments so this bill will have a majority of cosponsors and can be passed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. REID. Today Senator DORGAN, the chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee, is going to have at our luncheon the Ambassador of Egypt, the Ambassador of Jordan, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and the Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan. I compliment Senator DORGAN for arranging these eminent people to speak with Members.

I mention that only as a preface to a letter I received from a constituent of mine in Las Vegas, a young constituent. Her name is Sanaa Khan, and she is a ninth grade student. The letter reads:

Dear Senator Reid: It is unfortunate that Americans do not have the basic knowledge about Islam. This is the faith practiced by almost seven million Muslims living in the United States, and over one billion people around the world. It is the fastest growing religion in the world. As a research topic for my 9th grade English project, I chose to highlight the basic tenets of Islam, in order to develop a better understanding among my friends and teachers in school. I would like to send this to you so that you may share with your friends and colleagues.

The Islamic belief is structured around five main pillars: (1) The profession of faith. (2) Daily worship. (3) Fasting during the month of Ramadan (based on the Islamic lunar calendar). (4) Charity and (5) Making the pilgrimage to Makkah.

The profession of faith is simple. It's declaring that one believes in one God and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the messenger of God. By reciting this, one may convert to Islam. Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the last prophet of God who lived from 570 to 633 BCE.

Daily worship is praying five times a day: at dawn, midday, afternoon, evening, and at night. These prayers are short and include recitation of verses from the Qur'an, the holy book for Muslims. During these prayers, Muslims bow their heads in the direction of Makkah, Saudi Arabia, the holiest place for Muslims.

Charity in Islam is called "zakat". This is the obligation to share what one possesses with the poor. Muslims are required to give 2.5% of all the money and jewelry they own once a year to less fortunate people.

Fasting during the month of Ramadan is also mandatory. Fasting is refraining from food and drink from dawn until dusk. Muslims go by the Islamic lunar calendar making Ramadan the ninth month. Fasting is